

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

END-USE MONITORING AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I call my colleagues' attention to the attached letters regarding human rights in Colombia. As is detailed in the letters, the Administration and U.S. Southern Command maintain strict end-use monitoring of U.S. provided security assistance and have taken some preliminary steps to develop an intrusive vetting procedure for participants in U.S.-provided military training. There is a long way to go before we can be sure that all U.S. assistance and U.S. training are used properly and for their stated purpose. In the meantime, however, the Administration and U.S. Southern Command are taking a series of positive steps.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND, OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, Miami, FL, August 24, 1998.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON: Again, I want to express my appreciation for your continued interest in our region. In response to your 5 August 1998 letter, I will explain our individual selection and vetting procedure for U.S. sponsored training, comment on collective vetting procedures and provide my observation of the Colombian military's progress regarding human rights.

The five-step individual vetting procedure is intended to be helpful in scrutinizing nominees for human rights abuses, drug trafficking, corruption, criminal activities, and other behavior inconsistent with U.S. foreign policy goals. If an individual's reputable character cannot be validated they will not be selected for training regardless of the training location.

Step one begins when the U.S. Military Group/security assistance office announces course availability and requests the host government to submit nominees. Per established agreement, by submitting specific nominees, the host government verifies they have conducted an internal background investigation concluding the nominees are of reputable character. This completes step two. During step three, relevant U.S. Embassy agencies conduct respective background checks of the nominees. Fourth, the Military Group interviews each nominee for suitability and as a fifth step generates an invitation travel order for the approved nominee. Records are maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

As you know, we offer collective training and assistance for counternarcotics purposes to individuals and units in the Colombian security forces. However, the current unit vetting procedures and legal requirements for each type of collective training (to include Joint Combined Exchange Training) require further clarification and development. We are working diligently with the Military Group, the State Department and the Colombian Military to make the unit vetting pro-

cedures as standardized and specific as those already in existence for individuals. We believe it is vitally important to continue to train the Colombian military within the letter and spirit of applicable law to ensure that respect for individual human rights is a fundamental consideration of every soldier in uniform.

I am encouraged by the trends of Colombian military leaders regarding human rights. As General Tapias and his command assume their leadership roles, I confidently predict continued progress. As you know, five years ago the Colombian security forces were charged with over 60 percent of the human rights violations—today that figure is closer to seven percent. Some 150 human rights offices now provide effective training at all levels and commanders are involved. The Pastrana administration's early change in military leadership will potentially reinforce this favorable trend and provide us an opportunity to engage new leaders receptive to institutional reform.

Colombian military leaders recently requested assistance in refining a military justice system that comports fully with domestic and international law. We will soon dispatch a team of legal and human rights experts to discuss strategies for improving a Colombian military legal corps whose members will advise field commanders regarding compliance with law, emphasize individual human rights, expedite the fair administration of justice and help determine appropriate penalties for violators. Shifts in attitude precede policy changes. Our engagement of the Colombian military is changing their attitude and consequently their policies toward human rights.

Once again, I embrace your support as we continue to foster greater security in Colombia and further hemispheric stability.

Very Respectfully,

C.E. WILHELM,
General, U.S. Marine Corps, Commander
in Chief, U.S. Southern Command.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, August 5, 1998.

General C.E. Wilhelm,
Commander in Chief, United States Southern Command, Miami, FL.

DEAR GENERAL WILHELM: I write in reply to your letter of July 15, 1998. Like your testimony before our Committee earlier this spring, your letter was responsive, straightforward and very helpful. I appreciated receiving it.

I would like to ask you to elaborate on the last paragraph of your July 15th letter. You wrote that U.S. SOUTHCOM has developed procedures to select and vet individuals in Colombia's security forces who receive U.S. training, that you provide collective training for units involved in counter-narcotics activities, and that you coordinate training with the Department of Defense and with the Department of State.

As you know, training programs in Colombia have come under considerable scrutiny. Recent reports on training programs do not mention the elaborate selection, vetting and coordination procedures to which you referred in your letter. I hope, therefore, that you will explain these procedures in greater detail:

1. What exactly are the procedures you have established to select individual students from the Colombian security forces for participation in U.S. training exercises? Do you vet such individuals for human rights abuse? What are the vetting procedures?

2. When you provide collective training to Colombian units, do you vet each individual member of that unit for records of gross violations of human rights?

3. Do these established procedures for selecting and vetting participants in training operations apply to missions in Colombia undertaken by the US Special Forces Command? Do the procedures apply also to Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET)?

Lastly, I would also appreciate hearing your assessment of the respect for human rights among the Colombian security forces. Are you concerned, for example, about reports of ties between the Colombian Army and the irregular paramilitary forces that have committed human rights atrocities over the last several months? Do you have reason to believe that the Colombian military tolerates association between its soldiers and paramilitary units?

Thank you in advance for the consideration of this letter. I look forward to your response, which I intend to share with my colleagues in the Congressional Record.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND, OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, Miami, FL, July 15, 1998.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON: During a recent meeting at the National Security Council, I was pleased to learn of your interest in Colombia and the implementation of the August 1997 end-use monitoring agreement. I agree that violence in Colombia is escalating and that we bear a responsibility to assist the Colombian government consistent with both the letter and spirit of our own laws. The United States Southern Command is living up to that responsibility.

We are convinced, just as you are, that our counternarcotics goals and objectives cannot be realized in Colombia unless the military actively supports the National Police and Justice officials. With support from their administration, the Colombian military must develop a strategic plan that will rebuild their security forces, eliminate paramilitary violence, support the peace initiatives of the new administration, promote economic development and engrain a genuine respect for human rights. Respect for human rights will occur with institutional change, commander involvement, military legal reform and non-government agency cooperation.

The August 1997 end-use monitoring agreement stipulates geographical restrictions on U.S. assistance to areas "characterized by the highest concentration of counternarcotics activity." An addendum to that agreement allows for redesignation of the areas over time; experience has taught us these criminals will take the path of least resistance. The intent of my comment to the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

New York Times was to suggest that there are no safe havens—because narcotraffickers operate outside a designated area does not guarantee them impunity.

Finally, our training activities in Colombia are vetted. We have established procedures to select individual students, provide collective training for units and focus counternarcotic assistance where it is most needed. We coordinate training and assistance within the Department of Defense, with the Department of State for sensitive training and always with the approval of the Ambassador. I assure you that we comply with both the letter and spirit of the end-use monitoring agreement as we strive to train a professional Colombian military supportive of our counternarcotics goals and sensitive to human rights.

Very Respectfully,

C.E. WILHELM,
General, U.S. Marine Corps, Commander
in Chief, U.S. Southern Command.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RE-
LATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES,

Washington, DC, June 11, 1998.

Hon. SAMUEL BERGER,
National Security Adviser, The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SANDY: I write to you in regards to U.S. policy toward Colombia, and to seek your assurance about implementation of the end-use monitoring agreement that the U.S. reached with the Colombian Army in August 1997.

Violence in Colombia is escalating. There are some 25,000 murders each year in that country, a great many of them politically motivated. While many of those murders are perpetrated by irregular paramilitary organizations, it is increasingly clear that these paramilitary organizations maintain ties with at least some parts of the Colombian Army.

I commend the strong steps the Administration has taken in defense of human rights in Colombia, particularly given this growing alliance between the military and irregular paramilitary organizations. You were right, for example, to suspend the visa of the Inspector General of the Colombian military, an individual with ties to the paramilitary organizations. I am especially supportive of the agreement the Administration reached in August 1997 with the Colombian Army on end-use monitoring of U.S.-provided assistance. The agreement calls for units that use U.S.-provided assistance to be vetted for human rights abuse. It also goes a step further and restricts the area within which U.S. assistance can be utilized to the region of the country where drug cultivation and production takes place. These are two important conditions that help ensure that U.S. assistance is used properly and for its stated purpose.

I am, however, concerned about recent statements in the press from high ranking U.S. personnel regarding these important end-use monitoring requirements. In a recent New York Times article, for example, the Commander in Chief of U.S. Southern Command was quoted as saying, "In terms of geography, the use of resources, I'm personally not aware of any restrictions." I hope that this quotation is only a misunderstanding, and I look forward to your assurance that U.S. policy on end-use is being fully implemented.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUTSTANDING ST. PAUL FAMILY

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record the following article from the Sunday, August 23, 1998 edition of the St. Paul Pioneer Press in recognition of the Crutchfield family of St. Paul, for their outstanding and tireless efforts in community service. My congratulations to the Crutchfields and their many admirable achievements.

This recognition is well deserved and is a small reward for the service that Dr. Charles Crutchfield and his wonderful wife, Pat Crutchfield, have performed. They have remained in a community of modest means, while actively involved in their church, educational and social life, attempting to help give back to their community their love and labor to make St. Paul a better place to extend hope and the opportunity to grow to succeed to make a difference. Through their example and sacrifice, they have walked the walk. The Crutchfields' reward has been the great success of their children and the extended family and community they have embraced and their payment our love, affection and heartfelt thanks.

Thanks to the Crutchfields of St. Paul. They make us proud—very proud.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Aug. 23, 1998]

AN OUTSTANDING FAMILY

(By Pat Burson)

In St. Paul, the Crutchfield name is synonymous with family, education, community and success.

Those attributes made the family of Dr. Charles E. Crutchfield, a nationally recognized obstetrician and gynecologist, and his wife of 22 years, Pat, a tireless community fund-raiser and volunteer, a natural choice to receive the 1998 Family of the Year award from the St. Paul Urban League, said president Willie Mae Wilson.

"It's an outstanding family," she said.

Pat Crutchfield said she was shocked and humbled to learn that her family had been selected.

"I was embarrassed," she added. "I never look at what we do, getting recognized for it. You just do it. I just feel like I'm doing what I'm supposed to do. Not anything special."

They're just being modest, said neighbor Dick Mangram, who has known the Crutchfields for about 30 years.

Mangram, executive director of Hallie Q. Brown/Martin Luther King Community Center, also served on the St. Paul Urban League's board with Pat Crutchfield from 1982 to 1987.

"They're not the kind of people that will go around and toot their own horn," he said. "They're just good people. What you see is what you get. They're really proud to be right here in the city."

Charles Crutchfield was the first private black obstetrician/gynecologist in Minnesota. He entered private practice with his mentor, Dr. Joseph Goldsmith, in 1969. In addition to having a main office in the Fort Road Medical Center on West Seventh Street near downtown St. Paul, he and his partner, Dr. Rainer Rocheleau, also have offices in Apple Valley, Inver Grove Heights and White Bear Lake. Crutchfield has performed more than 3,000 operations and delivered almost 6,000 babies.

One of those deliveries earned him national media attention in December 1982, after he walked three miles in a blizzard to deliver a baby by emergency Caesarean section.

Crutchfield was honored in January by the Washington-based National Medical Association for his numerous contributions to the organization. He also has served as president of the Minnesota Association of Black Physicians.

In addition to the other medical and community organizations he is involved with, Crutchfield also is a physician and safety official for amateur boxing in Minnesota. He's an avid softball player and has even had his own team that his wife calls the "Crutchbangers."

A Chicago native, Pat Wilson Crutchfield moved with her family to the Twin Cities at age 4. Community service is part of the wellknown family's legacy. Her youngest brother, Steve Wilson, is president of Rondo Ave. Inc., which puts on the annual Rondo Days Parade. She had a Catholic education, attending St. Peter Claver Elementary School, Archbishop Murray High School and the College of St. Catherine.

Through United Hospital's "First Steps" program, Pat Crutchfield has helped many teen mothers cope with the challenges and the uncertainties they face. She wrote a popular weekly social column, "Pat's Tidbits," for the St. Paul Recorder and the Minneapolis Spokesman from 1990 to 1996. The column chronicled the births, deaths, reunions, club events, parties and other activities of Twin Cities African-Americans.

The couple met in June 1974 at Model Cities Health Center, a community clinic at 430 N. Dale St., where both were volunteers. She was 29 and single, a business services instructor and communications specialist at Northwestern Bell Telephone Co., now US West. He was six years her senior, separated and the father of three young sons. They were married Jan. 30, 1976.

On their honeymoon, the couple sketched a design of their dream home. The result is the three-story house on Aurora Avenue in St. Paul's Summit-University neighborhood, where they still live.

Their longevity in the area endears them to many who know them, including Steve Wilson.

"A lot of doctors, when they make it, the first thing they do is move to the suburbs," he said. "People ask (Crutchfield), 'Why do you stay?' And his answer has always been, 'Why would I leave?'"

The front yard is decorated with Pat Crutchfield's flower beds of canna lilies, peonies, pansies, roses and day lilies. Out back is Charles Crutchfield's pride and joy: his vegetable garden, with its assortment of greens, from collard to ruffled kale. He also has an orchard of apple, cherry, plum, pear and peach trees, wild strawberries and vines bearing seedless grapes.

Things haven't always been rosy. In 1983, a jury found Charles Crutchfield was not at fault for the cerebral palsy of a child he delivered. The girls' parents had brought a civil lawsuit against Crutchfield for malpractice.

In 1984, Crutchfield was accused of rape in a civil lawsuit brought by Renee Reed, a woman he treated at a free clinic years before. She was seeking monetary damages for a 1982 sexual encounter the doctor said was consensual, part of a three-year affair. He, in turn, sued Reed's father and her spiritual adviser, claiming the men were attempting to extort money from him with the rape allegation. Reed was awarded \$21,500 by the judge in the case. Her father won \$5,000 when the extortion claim was denied.

Charles Crutchfield said his attorney told him the only reason he had to pay anything